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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS BRING JOBS AND BETTER PAVEMENT TO I-80 First Transportation Project in California Breaks Ground

Fairfield – The California Department of Transportation today announced that a project to rehabilitate the pavement on Interstate 80 will be funded by the first federal economic stimulus dollars flowing to California. The \$13.4 million project will resurface, restore and rehabilitate the freeway in Fairfield between State Route 12 and Air Base Parkway.

“California’s recovery is beginning, thanks to funds from President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to get America working again, just 60 days after signing” said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. “With this first transportation project, we’ll not only improve the pavement but we’ll create over 240 jobs in this region.”

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Dale Bonner and Caltrans Director Will Kempton joined partners from the Federal Highway Administration, California Transportation Commission and Solano Transportation Authority to break ground on this momentous occasion.

The project that will rehabilitate the freeway in Solano County in Fairfield between State Route 12 and Air Base Parkway will begin this May and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The contractor, Top Grade Construction of Livermore, bid came in 39 percent below the estimated cost. This project is part of the improvements on I-80 through Solano County that will rehabilitate the pavement, widen shoulders, improve guardrail and construct an 8.7 mile carpool lane in Fairfield.

I-80 is vital to interregional and regional commuting, freight movement, and recreational travel: It connects the Bay Area to Sacramento, connects Interstate 5 to the north via Interstate 505, and links the San Francisco Bay Area to the east coast. Recent growth in Solano County has significantly increased transportation demand on the highway, necessitating the addition of a carpool lane.

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is intended to:





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- Preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery,
- Invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, and
- Stabilize state and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

California will receive \$2.57 billion for federally eligible highway projects. In addition, the state will receive \$1.068 billion for federally eligible transit projects. ARRA also provides \$1.5 billion nationally for competitive grants to state or local governments or transit agencies for highway, transit, freight, port or rail projects and \$1.3 billion nationally for discretionary or competitive grants for federally eligible airport projects. There is also \$8 billion allocated nationally for high speed rail corridors.

“California needs high speed rail, and since our plans are far advanced in comparison to the rest of the country we expect to speed funds to our project so we can get California moving again, figuratively and literally,” said Schwarzenegger.

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